

50c Purchase Cost U.S. \$13, Probers Say

By The Associated Press

Because of red tape, it cost the Government \$13.39 to buy a 50-cent copy of Esquire magazine, a House subcommittee reported yesterday.

Rapping the Interior Department for the "wasteful and extravagant" way in which it buys things, the subcommittee took August, 1950, as an example.

One day during that month, the National Park Service paid a half dollar for a copy of Esquire to be delivered to the office of the director.

But to issue that half-dollar purchase order, the committee found that "administrative costs"—employees' time, paper, files, the intricate processing—knicked the Government \$13.39.

It was one of several examples in a preliminary report submitted to the House Postoffice and Civil Service Committee by its subcommittee named to investigate overstaffing in the Federal Government.

The subcommittee reported that the average cost of processing each purchase order issued by the office of the secretary and the head of the department is 10 cents. The cost of the purchase order itself is 50 cents.

Next was the purchase order for \$20. Report the cost of 10 employees whose salary \$100,000 a year, the report noted. Each employee averaged an average of only 10 cents a day for the purchase order.

600,000
Proven
Total